



## 2004 Recreational Bottom Fishing Regulations: **Central Management Area** **North-Central Section<sup>4</sup>**



Ocean waters between 40°10' N. latitude (near Cape Mendocino) and 36°00' N. latitude (near Point Lopez, Monterey Co.)

**BOLD RED FONT** indicates in-season changes expected to take effect on May 1. These changes replace regulations listed in the 2004 Ocean Sport Fishing Regulations booklet. May 1 regulation changes will affect fishing seasons and depth restrictions.

Species	Time Period <sup>3, 5</sup>	Depth Limit <sup>3, 2</sup>	Daily Bag Limit <sup>3</sup>	Min. Size Limit <sup>1, 3, 6</sup>
RCG Complex (including all species of Rockfish that are not prohibited or restricted, Cabezon and Greenlings as defined in Section 1.91)	<b>Boat-based Anglers<sup>5</sup>:</b> <b>Open:</b> Jan, Feb, <b>Aug-Oct</b> <b>Closed:</b> Mar- <b>July, Nov, Dec</b> <b>Shore-based Anglers, Divers<sup>5</sup>:</b> <b>Open:</b> Jan, Feb, May-Dec <b>Closed:</b> March, April	<b>Jan-Feb:</b> May only be taken in less than 180 feet (30 fm)  <b>Aug-Oct: May only be taken in less than 120 feet (20 fm)</b>	10 fish in combination per person; see sub-limits for cabezon, greenlings, and bocaccio	see individual species and groups below
Canary, Cowcod, and Yelloweye Rockfishes	CLOSED all year; NO RETENTION		NO RETENTION (zero)	
Bocaccio	<b>Same as RCG Complex above</b>	<b>Same as RCG Complex above</b>	1 fish per person; also included in the 10-fish aggregate RCG complex bag limit	10 " total length
Cabezon	<b>Same as RCG Complex above</b>	<b>Same as RCG Complex above</b>	3 fish per person; also included in the 10-fish aggregate RCG complex bag limit	15" total length
Kelp and Rock Greenlings	<b>Same as RCG Complex above</b>	<b>Same as RCG Complex above</b>	2 fish in combination per person; also included in the 10-fish aggregate RCG complex bag limit	12" total length
California Scorpionfish	<b>Same as RCG Complex above</b>	<b>Same as RCG Complex above</b>	5 fish per person	10" total length
Ocean Whitefish	<b>Same as RCG Complex above</b>	<b>Same as RCG Complex above</b>	10 fish per person	None
California Sheephead	<b>Same as RCG Complex above</b>	<b>Same as RCG Complex above</b>	5 fish per person	12" total length
Lingcod	<b>Boat-based Anglers<sup>5</sup>:</b> <b>Open:</b> Jan, Feb, <b>Aug-Oct</b> <b>Closed:</b> Mar- <b>July</b> ; Nov, Dec <b>Shore-based Anglers, Divers<sup>5</sup>:</b> <b>Open:</b> Jan, Feb, May-Oct <b>Closed:</b> Mar, Apr, Nov, Dec	<b>Jan-Feb:</b> May only be taken in less than 180 feet (30 fm)  <b>Aug-Oct: May only be taken in less than 120 feet (20 fm)</b>	1 fish per person	30" total length
<b>Other Federal Groundfish</b> (see list below this table, or go to <a href="http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/groundfish_fedlist.html">www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/groundfish_fedlist.html</a> )	<b>Boat-based Anglers<sup>5</sup>:</b> <b>Open:</b> Jan-Apr; <b>Aug-Oct</b> <b>Closed:</b> <b>May-July</b> ; Nov, Dec <b>Shore-based Anglers, Divers<sup>5</sup>:</b> Open all year	<b>Jan-Feb:</b> May only be taken in less than 180 feet (30 fm)  <b>Aug-Oct: May only be taken in less than 120 feet (20 fm)</b>	See regulations for individual species	See regulations for individual species

continued on next page

<b>Sanddabs<sup>7</sup></b>	Open all year	No depth restrictions	No bag or possession limit	None
<b>Leopard Shark<sup>8</sup></b>	Outside of San Francisco Bay: <b>Boat-based Anglers<sup>5</sup>:</b> <b>Open:</b> Jan-Apr; <b>Aug-Oct</b> <b>Closed:</b> <b>May-July; Nov, Dec</b> <b>Shore-based Anglers, Divers<sup>5</sup>:</b> Open all year Inside San Francisco Bay: Open all year	Outside of San Francisco Bay: <b>Same as RCG Complex above</b>  Inside San Francisco Bay: <b>No depth restrictions</b>	3 fish per person	36" total length

1 See regulations for information on gear restrictions and fillet lengths

2 Around the Farallon Islands and Noonday Rock fishing is prohibited between the shoreline and 60 feet (10 fathoms); fishing is prohibited at Cordell Bank

3 Subject to in-season change. Check the Marine Region Web site at [www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd), send an e-mail to AskMarine@dfg.ca.gov, or call your local DFG office for the latest information.

4 Prior to May 1, 2004, the Central Rockfish Lingcod and Management Area included waters between 40°10' N. latitude (near Cape Mendocino) and 34°27' N. latitude (Point Conception). As of May 1, this area has been split into two sections, the North-Central Section and the South-Central Section, at 36°00' N. latitude, near Point Lopez in Monterey County.

5 Shore-based anglers and divers are exempt from the May 1 in-season changes shortening the seasons for the RCG complex, lingcod, ocean whitefish, California scorpionfish, California sheephead, and other federally managed groundfish. For the purposes of the May 1 in-season regulation changes, the following definitions describe boat-based and shore-based anglers, and divers.

- **Boat-based anglers** are fishermen that fish from boats or vessels of any size or any other type of floating object, including kayaks and float tubes.
- **Shore-based anglers** are fishermen that fish from beaches, banks, piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks and other manmade objects connected to the shore.
- **Divers** are **spear fishermen** entering the water either from the shore or from a boat or other floating object.

6 Total length is the longest straight-line measurement from the tip of the head with the mouth closed to the end of the longest lobe of the tail. See pg. 48 of the Ocean Sport Fishing regulation booklet for a diagram, or go to [www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/measurement.pdf](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/measurement.pdf)

7 The sport fishery for sanddabs, using gear specified in federal and state regulations, is exempt from the in-season closures and depth restrictions placed on other federally managed groundfish as of May 1, 2004.

8 The sport fishery for leopard shark inside San Francisco Bay is exempt from the in-season closures and depth restrictions placed on other federally managed groundfish as of May 1, 2004.

### List of Federally Managed Groundfish That Fall Under the "Other Federal Groundfish" Category

NOTE: This is NOT a complete list of federally managed groundfish. It is a list of federally managed groundfish not specifically mentioned in the table, for purposes of defining the species of fish included in the "Other Federal Groundfish" category within this table.

#### SHARKS:

soupin shark, *Galeorhinus zyopterus*  
spiny dogfish, *Squalus acanthias*  
leopard shark, *Triakis semifasciata*

#### SKATES:

big skate, *Raja binoculata*  
California skate, *R. inornata*  
longnose skate, *R. rhina*

#### RATFISH:

ratfish, *Hydrolagus collieri*

#### MORIDS:

finescale codling, *Antimora microlepis*

#### GRENADIERS:

Pacific rattail, *Coryphaenoides acrolepis*

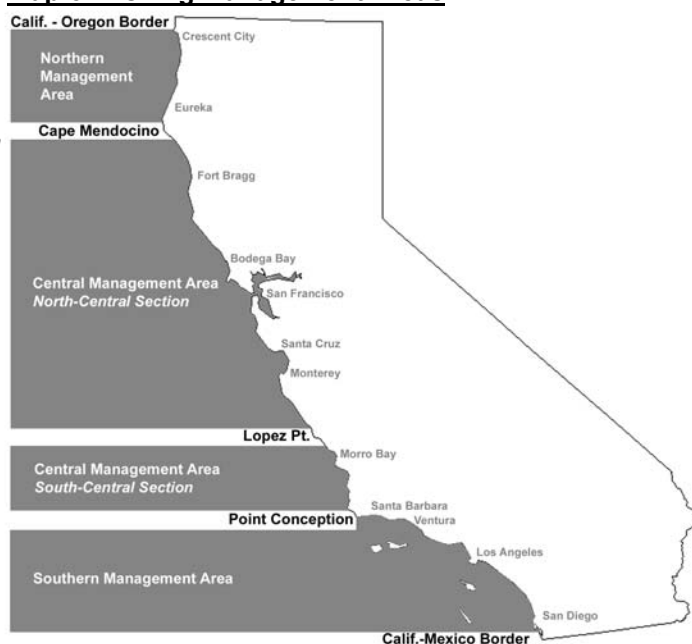
#### FLATFISH:

arrowtooth flounder (arrowtooth turbot),  
*Atheresthes stomias*  
butter sole, *Isopsetta isolepis*  
curlfin sole, *Pleuronichthys decurrens*  
Dover sole, *Microstomus pacificus*  
English sole, *Parophrys vetulus*  
flathead sole, *Hippoglossoides elassodon*  
petrale sole, *Eopsetta jordani*  
rex sole, *Glyptocephalus zachirus*  
rock sole, *Lepidopsetta bilineata*  
sand sole, *Psettichthys melanostictus*  
starry flounder, *Platichthys stellatus*

#### ROUND FISH:

Pacific cod, *Gadus macrocephalus*  
Pacific whiting, *Merluccius productus*  
sablefish, *Anoplopoma fimbria*

### Map of Fishing Management Areas



Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) is managed by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC). The Department supports all rules and regulations adopted by the IPHC.